

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2749

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008

NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated to various States under the National River Conservation Programme during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details of such funds released and utilized during the said period, State-wise, river-wise;
- (c) the criteria for release of funds under this Programme;
- (d) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the funds allocated to the States under the National River Conservation Programme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the unspent funds lying with various States during the said period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The pollution abatement works under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) are implemented on cost sharing basis between Centre and the States through implementing agencies nominated by the States. Works taken up include interception and diversion of sewage for treatment in sewage treatment plants; low cost sanitation works; electric and/or improved wood crematoria; river front development works, public participation and awareness programmes etc. Budget allocation is made for the Plan as a whole taking into account the detailed project reports sanctioned and the overall progress of the works taken up under the NRCP. The details of the budget allocation for the last three years and the current financial year are as follows:-

Year Rs. in Crore

2005-06 297.20

2006-07 275.92

2007-08 256.69

2008-09 249.00

(b) The details of the funds released for the works taken up under the Plan in the identified polluted stretches of the rivers in the States and the expenditure reported to have been incurred during the last three financial years and the current financial year are given in the Annexure.

(c) to (f) The Central assistance under the NRCP is released in the form of recurring grants from time to time directly to the implementing agencies of the State Governments. Funds are released commensurate with the progress of works reported. Submission of the utilization certificates for the funds released earlier, expenditure incurred and balance of funds available with the agencies are taken into account while releasing further funds. Considering that the funds are released in the form of recurring grants in stages, some amount normally remains with the implementing agencies for smooth implementation of the projects till the next

installment of funds is received. The details of the balance funds available with various agencies of the State Governments during the last three financial years (as on 31st March of the year) are as follows :

Year	Rs. in Crore
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2005-06	43.86
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2006-07	75.78
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2007-08	49.11
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A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, financial and physical progress of works from time to time. Close coordination with the State Governments is ensured through field visits by the Officers of the Central Government to expedite progress of works in the States. At the Central level, the Steering Committee of National River Conservation Authority regularly monitors the implementation of the programme. The States have also been advised to synergize the activities of the various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through regular meetings and to sort out inter-sectoral issues relating to acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources etc.